

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Giant Reed

Maui County Priority Pest for Molokai:

Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) is a tall grass that forms dense stands in wet areas. Stiff leaves have small hairs on margins which are felt when the leaf is rubbed in the wrong direction. Flowers between March and September.

Identification

Height- up to 8 m (16 ft) tall

Leaves- 70 cm (2 ft) long, alternate growth pattern

Flower- plume shaped, up to (1 m) 3 ft

Stem- hollow and woody

Roots- thick masses of scaly rhizomes (horizontal underground roots)



The giant reed can grow up to 16 feet tall!



Plume shaped flower head



Detail of woody stem and planar leaf growth

Don't mistake giant reed for these look-alikes:



Sugar Cane (*Saccharum officinarum*):

The tall grass (3 - 5 m) is grown as a crop on Maui. The stalk of this grass grows to 3 - 5 m (10 - 16 ft) tall with a SOLID STEM. Sap of plant sweet to taste.



Elephant Grass or Napier Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*)

is commonly found growing on roadsides and waterways around Maui County. Grows in large clumps with stems up 3.6 m (12 ft) tall. Older stems appear woody. Younger growth will often have blue to purple colored nodes. This grass produces tan bottle-brush-like flowers, much smaller than the giant reed. Leaves grow up to 50 cm (20 in) long and have rough edges which are felt when the leaf is rubbed in the wrong direction. LEAF MIDRIB strongly ridged.

Elephant grass leaves grow along multiple planes

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